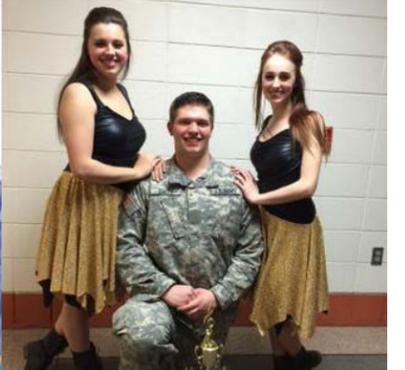


# THE RAILSPLITTER ONLINE

Abraham Lincoln High School | 2600 S.W. 9 St. Des Moines, IA | Vol. 90 | RS #8 | May 20, 2015

## CONGRATULATIONS

# 2015 Class of



#SOUTH  
SIDE  
PRIDE



2015  
2015  
2015  
2015

### HASHTAGS: #WHYILOVELHS

We tweeted the hashtag, here are some of our favorite responses...

@Anthony\_theCal: #WhyILoveLHS  
the office of Presidency #merica

@giselle\_sancen: I've met some amazing people who have helped me realize that life is about being happy and enjoying every moment. #WhyILoveLHS

Follow us on Twitter!  
@TheRailsOnline

@PointlessxPosts: #WhyILoveLHS  
amazing choir instructors :)

@coleenjessica4: #WhyILoveLHS  
I met some amazing people and made great friends

@ShawnGilbride1:  
#WhyILoveLHS  
being Lincoln's mascot and the Cabin

@kaylabradyy: #WhyILoveLHS  
because even with the cockroaches we all still have fun and love it here anyway :-)

Thanks for playing along!

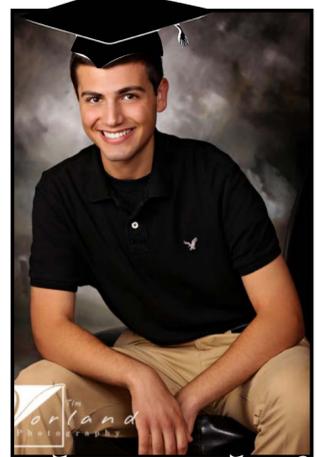
@TheRailsOnline

# STAFF on line



*Congratulations Class of 2015!*

@Anthony\_theCal

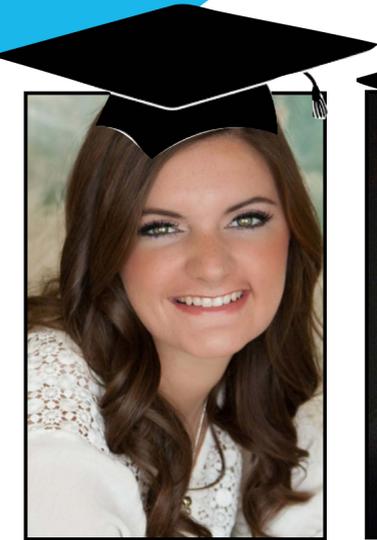


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"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."



# IN THE

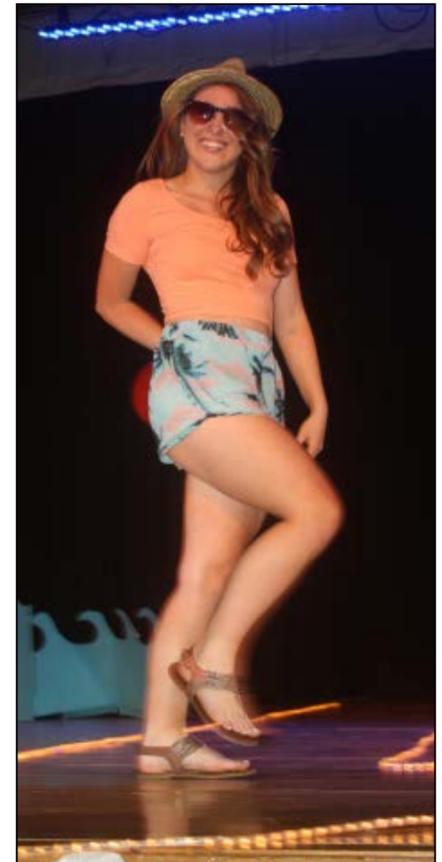
# City

Taylor Louw Staff writer - (@TaylorALouw)

This year Lincoln held a fashion show themed "In the City" organized by our very own fashion and sewing teacher, Mrs. Wilson. Girls and boys who volunteered had the chance to model the clothes other students made in class or even their own clothes. Over 100 students stepped up to volunteer and either helped set up and organize the show or model.

This year, there was a variety of outfits made by LHS fashion/sewing students, going all the way from dressy, casual, to beach-themed. Sophomore Nico Robinson commented, "The skits between the themes were my favorite part, the two girls that make the skits were so funny!"

All in all it's safe to say the show was a fantastic turn out this year. Lots of LHS students said it was a great time and fun to watch. Be sure to thank Mrs. Wilson and the fashion/sewing students for an awesome show!



Sophomore Abba Hoffman



Sophomore Jasmin Melara



Models lining up for the finale



Senior Kenzy Cooper



Sophomore Dearest Guanue



Sophomore Bella Formaro

# The mystery behind Academic Decathlon. Solved.

It all started in a Nazi prisoner of war camp in the mind of an Allied fighter pilot. His name was Dr. Robert Peterson. At one point he wrote in his diary, "(Students) ought to have... a decathlon of studies". It took twenty-five years for his dream to come to life.

When Dr. Peterson was running for school superintendent he spoke to voters about the idea of an Academic Decathlon. He gave them his reasoning behind the idea.

"Our students can work hard and do have spunk and stamina. Competition in learning... not only helps to achieve greatness, but maturity and self-fulfillment," said Dr. Peterson.

Dr. Peterson required students of the highest grade levels to participate with those who had B's and C's. He believed that each level of student would benefit from the Academic Decathlon in different ways. A student would benefit by learning new social skills and C students would learn new study habits.

In 1968 the first Academic Decathlon was held in Bolsa Grande, California. It was a success. About fourteen years later, in 1982, the first national Academic Decathlon tournament was held. It has been forty-five years since the first competition and since then Academic Teams across the nation have been competing against each other in a battle of knowledge ever since.

The thing that nobody knows about is what Academic Decathlon is and does. "Academic Decathlon is an extra-curricular activity and it is comprised of seven multiple choice tests over various topics," says Ms. Wil-

son, head coach of the Academic Team. "Literature, art, music, math, economics, social studies, and science. And then three other events to top out the ten. Writing an essay, giving an interview, and a three to four minute speech."

There is also a theme for each year. For 2015-2016 the theme is India. That means that all of the tests will be about India. Indian science, Indian art, Indian Music, and even Indian mathematics. This applies to the interview, essay, and speech as well.

One thing that may worry potential applicants to the program is the title. Academic Decathlon. When a high scholar hears three things involved in Academic Decathlon, they run. The three things are tests, speeches, and grades. However, those who are on the team think of it as fun. They also do not think of it as stressful or particularly difficult.

"Anybody can participate in Academic Decathlon," says the Captain of the Academic Team, Louis Martinez, senior. "There are three different categories in Decathlon. There's Honors, there's Scholastic, and there's Varsity, and each of those are kind of segmented into groups of people who had different GPAs. For example, Honors is like 3.75 to 4.0. So, anyone can really join it, the only thing that could be a real impediment is failing classes. If you are failing classes you can't participate regardless of the GPA you have. It's just that you will be in different categories."

There are categories in Academic Decathlon that depend on your grade point average as Martinez said. Honors is the highest GPA, Scholastic is the middle range, and Varsity is the lowest GPA. There are actually certain advantages to being in the lower GPA ranks. When asked whether a lower GPA would hinder a student's performance, Martinez had this to offer. "I would even say that it might hinder you a little bit, because with GPA you are going to be with other people who have a similar GPA. Because that's where you get your medals. You are put into that category. It doesn't mean they, (High GPA students), know more, but they might have more experience with high level concepts than other people. But, if you really enjoy learning and you like to learn by yourself, then you might have a better chance in the lower brackets."

Regardless of whether or not you are in the lower or upper brackets, being on the Academic Team will look great to colleges! That is one of the reasons the Team urges you to join. There are many reasons to join the Academic Team as the team will tell you.

"It's fun, more fun than studying for any of your other class's tests or anything. Surprisingly so," says Mr. Nizzi, assistant coach of the Academic Team. "We've got a great group of people. So, if you enjoy the pursuit of knowledge, which no one does, come on out!"

The Academic Team is always looking for applicants, so talk to Ms. Wilson in room 3230! She would love for you to come talk to her about it. She urges that there will be open spots for anyone who wants to join. It is

recommended that you join at the beginning of the year so you can learn your materials before competitions start.

"There's always open spots," added Coach Wilson. "Come talk to me, sleep on it, if you want to be on the team you're welcome. If it doesn't work out you have to tell me or Mr. Nizzi as soon as possible."

The air of the team is relaxed and fun loving. It is not as stressful as some people would say that it is. Try your best. That is all that they will ask of you. You are there to learn, and to have fun while doing it.

The leaders of the Academic Team follow the core values of the USAD (United States Academic Decathlon). These values are the core of Academic Decathlon and what it stands for, why it exists.

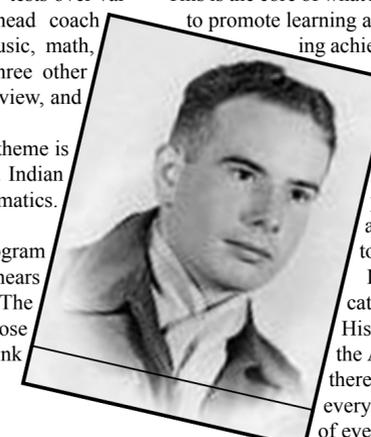
These values are, the academic growth of students. The challenging of multi-disciplinary learning. Using teamwork as a means to achieve self-knowledge and life skills. Providing equal opportunities for students of different achievement levels. The importance of inclusivity and diversity to learning and the human experience. High standards of honesty and integrity. Transparency in our relations and interactions with all of our stakeholders. Excellence in our programs, services, and activities. As well as the respect of diverse points of view.

This is the core of what Academic Decathlon is and does. "Our mission is to promote learning and academic excellence among students of varying achievement levels by developing and providing multidisciplinary academic competitions using Academic Decathlon curricula," according to the USAD website.

The vision that was in created in a prisoner of war's head still exists today. "Our vision is to provide all students the opportunity to excel academically through team competition," according to the USAD website.

It's good to know that the father of Academic Decathlon would be happy to see what it turned into. His touch can still be seen in the philosophies of the Academic Decathlon today. His sentiment is still there, "That spunk and stamina are still at the heart of every champion, and there is a champion in the heart of every student."

## From Nazis to Educating Youth



### 2015 Academic Decathlon

Top row: Jonathan Trinidad, Austin Wills, Omima Hassan, Miguel Chavez  
Bottom row: Coach Dan Nizzi, Alissa Bullington, Hailey Rice, Deysy Cruz, Coach Sandy Wilson, Sam Munsell  
Not pictured: Luis Martinez, Lizbeth Contreras, Gabriell McPherson, Hailey Burgess and Sierra Motte



# 15 PIECES OF ADVICE FOR THE CLASS OF 2015



Mackenzey Cooper Co-Editor-in-Chief

"Life is always going to throw bad things at you. If you can just be strong and either avoid them or overcome them it will just make you stronger every time."  
-Mrs. Duncan, Science Teacher

"Be kind. Word hard. Take risks. And no matter where you go... always find a way to get involved and give back."  
-Ms. Butz, Senior Advisor

"Never under any circumstances take a sleeping pill and a laxative on the same night."  
-Mr. Beckel, Vice-Principal

"Don't be afraid of failing."  
-Mr. Leonard, Science Teacher

"To the graduating seniors, if you don't know what you are going to do for the rest of your life right now, don't worry. Just try things. Take classes, try different jobs and don't worry that you're going to fail because failing also is a learning experience."  
-Mrs. Marshall, Spanish Teacher

"Every little decision you make today will impact you for the rest of your life whether it's positive or negative, so make good choices."  
-Officer Deb VanVelzen, School Resource Officer

"Be aware that it's not always how much you know or how hard you work sometimes there are other factors beyond on your control and you just have to let it go and do the best that you can and don't give up on your ethical beliefs."  
-Ms. Malmberg, English Teacher

"Find ways to forgive people against whom you have held things over the years and forgive yourselves and attempt as best to start fresh as you start a new chapter of your life and retain the good things from the old life."  
-Mr. Simons, English Teacher

"Be grateful, responsible, accountable and kind in everything you do and at the end of the day, you will have done your best."  
-Ms. Sayles, Journalism Teacher

"Travel as much as you can. Get out, experience the world, experience different people so you can appreciate everything you have."  
-Mrs. Brennan, Family and Consumer Science Teacher

"Make sure that when you are in your next stage of life, it is good that you make new friends."  
-Mrs. Wilson, Family and Consumer Science Teacher

"Buy low, sell high."  
-Mr. Pederson, Math Teacher

"Choose to succeed."  
-Mr. Arthur, Social Studies Teacher

"Have fun and enjoy life."  
-Mr. Madson, Business Teacher

"Be aware of careless people."  
"Don't cheat."  
"Show your friends you care."  
"Be better to your parents."  
"Money can't buy happiness or love."  
"You can't repeat the past."  
"The American Dream is real."  
-Mrs. Davidson, English Teacher

# Teacher Spotlight

## DRAMA DIRECTOR: Mrs. Oldenburger

It is difficult moving into a new neighborhood. Starting a new job. Going to a new schools. Making new friends, meeting new people. All things we have faced in our lives, (and a large applause to those who have been lucky enough not to face any of that).

But what is it like to take over an entire department? Work with a group of people that already has their own thoughts of how things should go?

All of these things that Drama Director, Mrs. Oldenburger, has had to go through this year. And this will help shed light on how she has felt it has gone.

### How has your first year gone?

It's been good. The teachers are supportive and great and helpful. And the students have been very patient in helping me understand theatre and speech.

### How do you feel about your first year at Lincoln?

I feel pretty good about my first year. It was quite a change. I went from being half time, teaching gifted and talented third graders Algebra II, to being a full time drama director. It was a real change in time commitment. But, as the students are up for a challenge, so am I.

### What were some of your biggest challenges?

I think the biggest challenge was tackling one big thing after another, transitioning. The event year here in the Lincoln drama department is a busy one. We ended our Senior Directed One Acts, and auditioned for "Hamlet", and barely finishing "Hamlet", we auditioned for IHSSA. Only half finished with IHSSA, and we started "Chicago". And now, we're still doing stuff with "Chicago" through the Iowa High School Musical Theatre Association, and preparing for our banquet. Balancing and transition,--it was a challenge.

### How did you manage to stay afloat through all of that?

Did I? The students helped me through this. They push me, they motivate me. They come in, expecting and wanting big things, which is what pushes me to help put on and create these big things. Together, we helped each other stay afloat.

### Through that, were you able to make strong connections with the students?

I think I have made a strong connection with the kids. And it's important. A lot of the accomplishments would not have been possible without a strong connection with the students. And it helps bring more people in. We currently have 100 active students in the department, and that doesn't include the class kids who can't participate after school. What I really enjoy right now is the dance club that we have added to meet some of the students' needs. I noticed that we had some kids who were really interested in dance, but couldn't take any classes. So I created Dance Club, which happens every Friday alongside Drama Club.

### What is it like balancing the department and the class?

It's a completely different group of students. The students who join are usually students who are interested, and really want to learn about theatre. And when they learn, and they start liking it even more, they go into the department.

### How do you feel the transition from director to director went this year, in your opinion?

The students were very accepting. Mrs. Sissel left half way through the



Left To right: Miranda Oldenburger, 16, Mrs. Oldenburger's daughter; Mrs. Oldenburger; Carlos Santiago, Senior Zach Feldt, Junior Giovanni Bahena. Picture taken at Iowa State University, after the Improv performance at the IHSSA All-State Performance.

summer, very last minute. Not having true closure made things a little difficult, but the students were very good at recognizing that I was there, and that we were in this together.

### You've done some pretty big shows this year. What made you want to do them right off the bat?

A lot of it was what the students wanted. I let them choose, to help all of us with the transition, or to try to. It really did help me get to the students, help us get along. It also made it really easy to get to know the students. And I wanted to challenge them. I don't want people to think I do this just for the tickets and getting people in the seats. I did this so it would be an academic challenge to the students.

"Hamlet" was a Shakespearian. And the students really wanted to do a Shakespearian. And "Hamlet" was one that I was rather familiar with. And it made it easier to rewrite the script, mixing up the original and the simplified versions. I even simplified the set, so that the students would learn that a lot of what the audience sees comes from their physicality and their vocal ranges.

With "Chicago", I saw that there were a lot of students who were interested in dance, so I chose a slightly dance heavy show. It added a great element of physicality.

### And what did you like most from the shows?

With the dancing, not a lot of students had the training, but they were willing to work, and hard. I'm really happy with that.

### What do you want the readers to know most about your experience?

Lincoln has a LOT of really talented people here. And I want people to know that. I want people to come and see the shows, see the talented students. And I want students to know, that they are all more than welcomed. We don't just need people who can be on stage, we need people who can work on stuff back stage. Whether it be costumes, painting sets, designing lights, or creating our posters, we want people and everyone is welcome!



## Senior AP Art show

Finally the end of the year is upon us, which also means it's time for the Annual AP Senior Art Show. On May 12th, the seniors proudly displayed their best work accumulated over the past four years for everyone to see in the long hallway.

Senior Marana Jones		Senior Joseph Glover		Senior Nick Ogren	
Senior May Chau		Senior Alexa Phisith			
Senior Craig Connet		Senior Jadie Rafdal		Senior Ali Newton	
Senior Josie Ortega		Senior Hailey Rice			
Senior Paige Hebert		Senior Cheyenne Richardson		Senior Riley Mott	

# The Up and Coming Varsity baseball stars of Lincoln



Staff writers AJ Joss @AJoss\_ & Nico Robinson @NicoRobinsonO

With the baseball season just under way there are lots high hopes for this season for the 2015 varsity team. There is an outstanding group of players in the 2015 and 2016 class. Obviously, the main goal for every team is to win as many games possible and win the state championship. But for this Rail-splitter team it is about more than that.

This year the team is led by a new head coach, Coach Eddie Mauro. Mauro led Dowling to two state championships in 1999 and 2001. Mauro has more than 25 years of coaching under his belt. "Mauro has coached youth, high school and junior college players. Mauro has been either head or assistant coach on six state championship and one national championship teams. Mauro was a scout for the Cincinnati Reds for 10 years and was working with the Chicago Cubs minor league players," according to championssportscenter.typepad.com.

"I think the new coaching staff knows what they're doing. They have a lot of experience under their belt. They have potential to bring good things to Lincoln High School baseball," Senior Blake Marasco.

Coach Mauro is laying down the law with the pitchers. All pitchers on the varsity lineup are required to do workouts every day. The pitchers have a responsibility of coming to practice an hour early to practice and doing their work out before practice. The workouts can vary from day to day. There are four workout routines for the pitchers (off day, long day, short day, mound day).

Coach Mauro is a good coach. He knows what he is talking about and really knows the game of baseball. He is someone who can flip this program around and make this make this a good team and bring the south side back," said Junior Richie Galvan.

This season the team is working hard. With practicing six days a week and lifting weights early in the morning on a few select days the team is definitely trying to prove a point.

This season is really important to seniors since for most, it will be their last opportunity to play baseball as a team sport. "I want to work on being a better teammate and self-discipline," said Senior Blake Marasco concerning his personal goal.

The varsity team takes on Waukee at home on May 27th with their first game of the season. The team is looking to make a statement and it all starts now. These next few months are crucial for this Railsplitter team to make a statement and make a run for a state championship.

1. Junior Hunter Lee pitching
2. Senior Ricky Terrell
3. juniors Domonic Rivira and Richie Galvan
4. Junior Gage Johnson
5. Senior AJ Joss
6. Junior Alex Latcham



# SPRING SPORTS

Kayla Brady Co-Sports Editor - @kaylabradyyy

## Girl's Golf

While thinking of high school sports, golf may not be the first one to come to mind. Golf is a quiet sport here at Lincoln High School and the efforts put in by the team members usually gets unnoticed. Sophomore Frannie Nielsen is a member of the girls' golf team.

"Our season is alright this year, we get better with practice every day and with every meet. A normal practice is either the driving range or nine holes at the grand view golf course," said Nielsen.

With having a practice everyday that there is not a meet, the ladies on the golf team are very busy and dedicated.

"I like meeting new people that I normally wouldn't see on a typical day," said Nielsen.

Your teammates during your high school years are the ones you grow close to. Teammates are people you

will never forget. Be sure to follow up with the girl's golf team for the remainder of the season.



Sophomore Frannie Nielsen



## Rugby

Rugby being a fairly recent sport at Lincoln, the team does not get enough attention for their hard work on the field every Friday night.

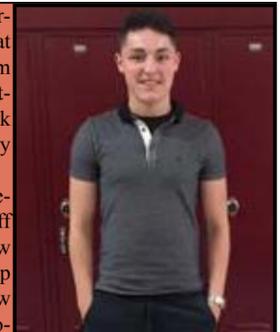
"The season is going really well. We started off a little rough with a few loses but we cleaned up fast and picked up a few wins," said Junior Anthony Rizzuti.

Getting into the swing of things is always difficult for any team at the beginning of the season.

Rizzuti is the varsity fullback, which is also called the sweeper. His main role on the field is to stay back on defense and to tackle anyone who gets past the defense. (For all you football lovers, he is like a safety in football.)

"My favorite part about playing rugby for Lincoln High School is the sport itself. It is so fast paced and aggressive. Our coaches are great and my teammates are like brothers to me," said Rizzuti.

A great way to feel like a family is to join a sport and become a teammate. Come out and watch the rugby team defeat their opponents these last few Friday nights.



Junior Anthony Rizzuti

## Boy's Tennis

Tennis is a very competitive and well known sport here at Lincoln. The season recently ended for the boys ending with a very impressive record. (Seven wins, three loses.)

"That's the best record we have had in a decade," said Sophomore Alan Hoover.

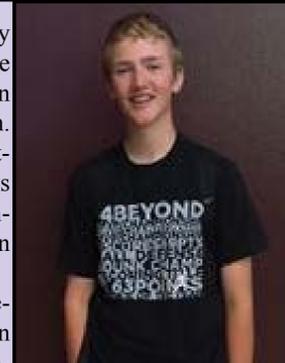
Hoover was very successful on the court this year, with his singles record being 7-3 and his doubles record being 8-4. Hoover and his doubles partner, Senior Alex Rand, have quite the name for their partnership. "Team Slam."

"Team Slam was having a very disappointing season at first, but we always came back," said Hoover.

Hoover held pride in his skills and wanted to have a very memorable season for the graduating seniors.

"We need to win big this season because we have a lot of seniors graduating. Including Alex Rand, Jason He, Andre Flatt and Angel Sierra."

To have such a young teammate care about the seniors shows what the tennis program is all about here at Lincoln. Don't forget to follow up with the team over the next few years for their impressive seasons.



Sophomore Alan Hoover

## Girl's Tennis

This tennis season the girls have a great record so far. With five wins and only one loss they are in for a winning season.

"We beat Ottumwa and Indianola for the first time in four years, maybe even more," said Senior Madeline Jannes. Beating teams when you are the underdog is an indescribable feeling.

"Those teams have been a real challenge for us in the past and it's great to see us reach new heights," said Jannes.

The girl's tennis team is a senior led team with a lot of talent.

"Tennis will be the hardest thing to say goodbye to leaving Lincoln High School. I think I speak for the majority of the girl's tennis team seniors when I say that," said Jannes. "These last meets I will remember for the rest of my life. It's a great sport with great people and I value the friendships I have made so much through tennis."

Seeing Lincoln athletes create a bond with their teammates is a wonderful thing. Make sure to make it to the girl's last few tennis meets while the school year winds down.



Senior Madeline Jannes







# 10 SPENCER DAVIS, FRESHMAN

*questions...*

Kayla Brady  
Co-Sports Editor  
@kaylabradyyy

**1. What are you looking forward to at Lincoln main next year?**

**A.** Being more mixed in with the other upperclassmen and being able to have more opportunities to join clubs or after school activities.

**2. Are you going to continue to be in leadership?**

**A.** Yes, I will continue doing leadership because of how much fun I had this year.

**3. What are your goals for sophomore year?**

**A.** I hope to find more activities for next year's freshman to join and mix with the upperclassmen.

**4. What will your schedule look like next year?**

**A.** My schedule will mostly consist of class revolving around performing arts.

**5. What school activities will you be joining or attending?**

**A.** I will be attending the Drama Club again, as well as joining Show Choir and Chamber.

**6. Are you nervous to be attending the "big" main building? Why or why not?**

**A.** I will be slightly nervous of attending main, mostly because I'm scared of getting lost.

**7. What do you think will change when moving from building to building?**

**A.** I will change my schedule after, so I can have to work and be in after school activities.

**8. What was your favorite thing about freshman year and why?**

**A.** My favorite thing about freshman year is the opportunity to run for Student Council and being able to go to the main building to change both schools.

**9. What is your favorite thing about leadership class?**

**A.** My favorite thing about leadership is the involvement me and the other freshmen get, being able to mingle with upperclassmen.

**10. What will you take away from freshman year?**

**A.** I will take the fact that I got some amazing teachers who gave me the chance to express myself and explore what I want to do after I graduate.

